

Fall 2012

Pipeline



Newsletter

For Customers of the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

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Alina Tejeda Hudak
County Manager

Robert A. Cuevas Jr.
County Attorney

John W. Renfrow, P.E.
Director

Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of handicap.

It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For questions concerning your account, please contact:

Customer Service 305-665-7477
Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Internet: www.miamidade.gov/water

WASD's aging wastewater system to receive overhaul/upgrade

In 1995 the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) entered into a consent decree with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a legally binding program to reduce sewage overflows resulting from lack of capacity in the sewage collection system. Since that time, WASD has spent more than \$1.8 billion to improve the system, virtually eliminating capacity-related overflows. Now, WASD is once again working with the EPA, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to draft a new consent decree that will establish a program to replace aging pipelines and treatment plant components to control overflows resulting from equipment failures.

More than \$1.4 billion in needed repair projects have been identified to be completed in a 10 to 15 year timeframe. Much of the wastewater system was built in the 1970s after the Clean Water Act was passed and substantial federal assistance was available. That infrastructure is now wearing out. It is particularly challenging to repair a system that must continuously operate. Very careful planning is required. In some cases, old pipes can be restored rather than be replaced, thereby minimizing disruption of traffic and business.

WASD will make every effort to minimize the inconvenience as we upgrade the system that will then deliver efficient service for the community during the next 50 years. The County Commission will be considering this program soon, with the work expected to begin in 2013. WASD considers this to be an opportunity to improve both the physical infrastructure of the sewer system and to put into place the asset management programs that will keep the system in tip-top shape for the future. So "pardon our dust" as we undertake these critically needed improvements throughout the County.



Did you know...

that you can pay your water bill with just a click of a mouse? WASD customers have three convenient ways to pay their bills electronically. For more information, [click here.](#)

Adopt a Tree, showerhead and light bulb exchange on October 21st

From 9-11 a.m., Sunday, October 21st, trees will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis - while supplies last at the Miami Dade College North Campus located at 11380 NW 27th Ave. Miami-Dade single-family or duplex homeowners are eligible to receive 2 FREE trees per year, even if they have adopted trees in past years.

Residents can also exchange their old showerheads and standard light bulbs for high-efficiency showerheads and compact fluorescent light bulbs when they bring their old ones to turn in. For more information, email adoptatree@miamidade.gov or call 305-372-6784. It is recommended to print, complete and bring the Adopt-a-Tree registration form to save time on the event date.



Citizens can provide public comment on department upgrades

Public meetings to discuss wastewater collection and treatment system project upgrades were recently held. Residents were informed about WASD's negotiations with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to finalize a Consent Decree. Citizens can still learn about the projects and provide public comment by going to <http://www.miamidade.gov/water/wastewater-improvement-projects.asp>.



WASD receives award, funding for Toilet Rebate Program

The South Florida Water Management District recently honored WASD with the department's selection as a recipient of funding from its Fiscal Year 2013 Water Savings Incentive Program. The award comes with \$25,000 to be used to fund the High Efficiency Toilet Rebate program.

The department has other award winning rebate programs that are geared toward assisting customers save water and money, such as the high efficiency showerhead exchange and landscape evaluations. For more information on these programs, go to www.miamidade.gov/conservation.

